Child marriages in Rajasthan

6614. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of marriages of innocent children are performed in Rajasthan in the month of April every year on the Akha Teej festival in the gross violation of child marriage Act;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop this social evil; and

(c) what achievement/improvement has been made in this respect during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a traditional and customary practice in the State of Rajasthan to arrange Child Marriages on the occasion of Akha Teej which usually comes in the month of April/May. However, with the enactment of the Child Marriage Restaint Act, 1929 and with the gearing up of State administrative machinery, there has been some check on child marriages.

(b) In order to stop this social evil, efforts are being made to strictly enforce the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act. Towards this end, circulars have been issued by the State Government to all District Collectors.

Apart from this, the Information Education Communication Bureau, (Medical & Health Department) and Women & Child Development Department of the State Government is making efforts to mobilise public opinion against this social evil. Efforts are benig made to raise awareness among the public about the evil consequences of child marriages through "Prabhat Pheri", "Nukkad Natak", Seminars, Workshops, folk medias and other publicity measures.

A special drive on the occasion of Akha Teej for prevention of child marriage is taken up every year and appeals are issued by authorities in Newspapers, pamphlets, handbills etc.

(c) Through the efforts of various NGOs, Women and Child Development Department and State administrative machinery, an awareness has been raised against the child marrige. There has been a check to a great extent on celebration of child marriages. During the year 1994, 714 child marriages were actually prevented. A large number of child marriages have been prevented during the current year too.

मध्य प्रदेश में स्मारकों पर व्यय

6615. श्री राघवजी : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा जिले में स्थित विजया मन्दिर, उदयगिरि की गुफाओं, उदयपुर शिव मन्दिर, ग्यारसपुर माला देवी, पन्दिर तथा बड़ोह पठारी के मन्दिरों में प्रत्येक पर कितनी-कितनी राशि व्यय की गई;

(ख) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान उपरोक्त स्मारकों में से प्रत्येक पर कितनी-कितनी राशि व्यय किये जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उन पर कम राशि व्यय किये जाने के कारण इन में से कुछ स्मारकों का रख-रखाव दयनीय है : यदि हां, तो उसमें सुधार करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाये जाने का विचार है ?